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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/499,951	02/08/2000	TATSUO J. CHIGIRA	B208-1076	1936

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KEVIN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2674

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/499,951

Applicant(s)

CHIGIRA, TATSUO J. 

Examiner

Kevin M. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 4/18/2003 is entered. The rejection of claims 1 and 3-10 are maintained.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/499,951, filed on 12/12/1999.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al (US 6,441,978).

5. As to claim 10, Kobayashi et al teach a head mounted display device (HMD) which includes a front frame 10M, a display part 41 (figure 4, col. 10, lines 55-56), the left and right rear frame 10L and 10R, a mount pad 2F, the hinges 10Lh and 10Rh, elastic members 10L and 10R (col. 11, lines 1-6), the temple part 2F, a forehead 2F, a viewer M (col. 11, lines 27-33), elastic force of right and left side frames (col. 11, lines 7-12).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (US 6,441,978) in view of Chiou (US 4,993,065).

8. As to claim 1, Kobayashi et al teach a head mounted display device (HMD) which includes a front frame 10M, holding member 10C (figure 4, col. 10, lines 55-56), a mount pad 2F, a head 2F, a viewer M, a display part 41, the left and right rear frame 10L and 10R, the hinges 10Lh and 10Rh (col. 11, lines 27-33), elastic force of side frames (col. 11, lines 7-12).

Kobayashi et al fail to teach each of said earphone holding members is composed of an elastic body fixed to a lower side of each of said side frames and is arranged to detachably body, with an elastic force, a stem part of each of the earphones inserted in said elastic body. However, Chiou teaches the earphone holding members (13, 14), side frames (11, 12), an elastic force, a stem part, the earphones (20, 30) (see figure 4, column 3, lines 23-26). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the earphone holding members (13, 14), side frames (11, 12), an elastic force, a stem part, the earphones (20, 30) taught by Chiou in Kobayashi et al's head mounted display device because this would be comfortably positioned in the user's ears without presenting any burden

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thereto and which can also be easily replaced with new receiving means if a malfunction occurs (column 2, lines 19-22 of Chiou).

9. As to claim 7, Kobayashi et al teach a head mounted display device (HMD) which includes a front frame 10M, a display part 41 (figure 4, col. 10, lines 55-56), the left and right rear frame 10L and 10R, a mount pad 2F, the hinges 10Lh and 10Rh, elastic members 10L and 10R (col. 11, lines 1-6), the temple part 2F, a forehead 2F, a viewer M (col. 11, lines 27-33), elastic force of right and left side frames (col. 11, lines 7-12).

Kobayashi et al fail to teach each of said earphone holding members is composed of an elastic body fixed to a lower side of each of said side frames and is arranged to detachably body, with an elastic force, a stem part of each of the earphones inserted in said elastic body. However, Chiou teaches the earphone holding members (13, 14), side frames (11, 12), an elastic force, a stem part, the earphones (20, 30) (see figure 4, column 3, lines 23-26). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the earphone holding members (13, 14), side frames (11, 12), an elastic force, a stem part, the earphones (20, 30) taught by Chiou in Kobayashi et al's head mounted display device because this would be comfortably positioned in the user's ears without presenting any burden thereto and which can also be easily replaced with new receiving means if a malfunction occurs (column 2, lines 19-22 of Chiou).

As to claims 3 and 9, Kobayashi et al teach a display part 41 (see figure 2). Chiou teaches one of earphone holding members 14 is arranged to further hold a cable 32 connected to the part 4 (see figure 4). It would have been obvious to a person of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize one of earphone holding members 14 is arranged to further hold a cable 32 connected to the part 4 taught by Chiou in Kobayashi et al's head mounted display device because this would be comfortably positioned in the user's ears without presenting any burden thereto and which can also be easily replaced with new receiving means if a malfunction occurs (column 2, lines 19-22 of Chiou).

As to claim 4, Kobayashi et al teach the left and right rear frames 10L and 10R being hinged by the hinges 10Lh and 10Rh which serve as the coupling mechanisms to the main frame 10M (col. 10, lines 52-54). The hinges 10Lh and 10Rh are foldable inward.

As to claims 5, 6 and 8, Kobayashi et al teach the side frames including elastic force the left and right rear frames 10L and 10R being formed by using a plastic material among polyamide, polycarbonate having a hole communicating with said inserting hole is formed also in said elastic member as shown in figure 4 (col. 11, lines 13-17).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kevin M. Nguyen** whose telephone number is **703-305-6209**. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THU from 9:00-6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richard A Hjerpe** can be reached on **703-305-4709**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231


or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Kevin M. Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2674



RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600